

MAR 9 4 2010

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To: Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Att: Docketing Dept.
P.O. Drawer 11649
Columbia, SC 29211

From: Thelma Patterson
Print Name

Date: 3-12-2010

Subject: Rate Increase

I am **outraged** at the timing of SCE&G's request for an almost 10% rate hike at a time of economic struggle unparalleled since the depression. SCE&G has an obligation to all the people not just stockholders.

I am voicing my opposition to this pending rate increase by writing this letter of protest. Please reference Docket No. 2009-489-E

Signed: Thelma Patterson Date: 3-22-10

The Office of Regulatory Staff will accept letters of protest through March 22nd, 2010.

Facts you should know:

- SCE&G was approved for a 2.5 percent rate increase annually for the next decade, following a 4.4 percent rate hike in 2008.
- New rate hike will boost residential power bills for the average SCE&G customer by about \$140 a year by July 2011.
- For Duke Power customers, the cost of 1,000 kilowatt hours is about \$93, following its recent rate increase. For SCE&G, the same level of power costs \$118. The rate boost, if granted, would put it at \$130.
- SCE&G has higher rates than other investor-owned utilities, as well as publicly owned Santee-Cooper.



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